

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 have been amended. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 would be pending. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of some informalities. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of this claim are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-18, 21, 22 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda (US 4,569,585) and further in view of Pinzarrone (US 5,956,158).

Independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 are directed to arrangements involving an image reading apparatus with an image sensing unit for reading an image and an interface for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to an external apparatus. The image reading apparatus operates with power supplied from an external power supply, and the image reading apparatus is set to the sleep state if any abnormality of the interface is detected.

These claims have been further amended to reflect that power from the external power supply is not provided to the image reading apparatus across the interface. That is, power from the external power supply and image signals are not transferred across the same interface (see e.g., element 22 and power supply 35). Further, the claims involve controlling initialization (e.g., via controller, controlling step, etc.) of at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit to the state identical to the state at the time when the apparatus is powered on before or after the apparatus is set to the sleep state

On the contrary, Masuda as relied upon by the Examiner describes a copying machine that monitors the input AC power supply to check whether it is normal or abnormal. In the event of an abnormal condition, the main motor and the exposure lamp (when the machine is in the copy operation) are de-energized to prevent damage to the machine. Masuda monitors the input AC power supply and not any interface for transferring image signal read by an image sensing unit to an external apparatus. As such, Masuda is not only silent as to any external apparatus or any interface for transferring signals to an external apparatus, but also silent as to any detector for detecting an abnormality of such an interface.

The remaining reference Pinzarrone does not remedy these deficiencies in the Masuda reference. For example, Pinzarrone shows a scanner which can be powered from a computer over a USB connector. As best understood, the Examiner contends that Pinzarrone would be combined with Masuda to “eliminate the need for a separate cable from the image reading device to a power outlet.” That is, the resulting combination, as alleged by the Examiner, would use the same cable (e.g., USB) to transfer power (from an external power supply) and transfer image signals. As such, the alleged combination still would not render

obvious the proposed claimed arrangements in which the power is not supplied through the same interface across which image signals are transferred to the external apparatus.

Furthermore, if the power is supplied via the interface, it is respectfully submitted that the initialization control as specified in claim 1, 10, 18 and 26 cannot be performed, since the power is not supplied after abnormality of the interface is detected.

Finally, the claims are directed to arrangements which, for example, may address the conventional problem which arises when an image reading apparatus (e.g., scanner) is supplied with power from an external power supply, not via the interface, under control of an external apparatus (e.g., host computer). If the connection between the image reading apparatus and the external apparatus suffers any trouble, the control by the external apparatus suddenly stops and the image reading apparatus is kept supplied with power from the external power supply even though it does not operate itself, which wastes energy. According to claimed arrangements, in response to a detection of abnormality of the interface, the controller or the like sets the image reading apparatus to the sleep state.

If the image reading apparatus is supplied with power via the interface, the above problem does not arise in the first place, since the power supply is stopped when any trouble occurs in the interface. The Applicant wishes to note that, in the context of the claims, the power can for example be normally supplied from the external power supply even when the interface is troubled.

Accordingly, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 and their dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

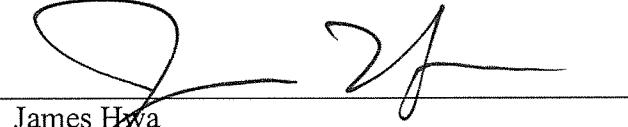
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 6/19/09 By:



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